

ENERGY TIDBITS

November 2006

Green Lodging Michigan, a joint effort by the Michigan Energy Office and the Department of Environmental Quality, has certified its first six facilities. There are 3 levels of certification that can be earned (Partner, Steward and Leader) based on 7 categories: communication & education, energy efficiency, air quality, solid waste reduction, toxic & hazardous waste, water conservation, and purchasing. The first six facilities that have earned Green Lodging Michigan certification include two partners: Bayshore Resort, which is located on the sandy beaches of West Grand Traverse Bay, and the Wren's Nest, a bed and breakfast located in West Bloomfield. Four have earned Steward certification: Crystal Mountain, Livonia Marriott, 100-year-old Neahtawanta Inn, a bed and breakfast located on the Old Mission Peninsula in Grand Traverse Bay, and the Dept. of Natural Resources' Ralph A. MacMullan Conference Center, located on Higgins Lake. As facilities are certified, they will be added to the GLM web site at www.michigan.gov/greenlodging. Think Green when you travel!

Miss the Michigan Solar Tour of sustainable homes and buildings on October 7? Take a virtual tour at the Great Lakes Renewable Energy Assoc. web site at <http://www.glrea.org/events/solarBuildingTour2006/index.html>

City of Ann Arbor has been selected, along with Cambridge, MA and the State of Wisconsin, to participate in a national Purchasing Green Electricity pilot program. Responsible Purchasing Network and Think Energy will be working with Dave Konkle to assist Ann Arbor to purchase green electricity as part of the strategy to reach its renewable energy goal of 30% for city operations by 2010 and 20% for the entire community by 2015.

Michigan Energy Appraisal from the MPSC indicates that compared to last winter, natural gas prices for home heating will be 12% lower. Because last winter was warmer than normal, a return to normal weather would offset some of these savings. Projections by EIA show that the price of West Texas Intermediate grade crude oil is expected to average around \$70 per barrel in 2006 and 2007, with a wide range of possible outcomes ranging from the mid \$50 per barrel to over \$80. As of September 1, the average world crude oil price was \$64.49. Gasoline prices in Michigan reached a new record high on August 2, when AAA Michigan reported an average price of \$3.09 per gallon. Prices have now retreated from record levels. To view the full report go to <http://www.dleg.state.mi.us/mpsc/reports/energy>.

U.S. Green Building Council has selected 8 faculty experts for the LEED for Homes program including Michael Holcomb. These specialists will be responsible for training home builders in the theory and practice of the LEED for Homes program. Michael Holcomb worked to develop the local green building standard for the Greater Grand Rapids Home Builders' Association. That program has been adopted as the statewide green building program for all Home Builder Associations in Michigan last month.

Energy Tips for Pumping Systems can be found at <http://www.nrel.gov/docs/fy06osti/38944.pdf>

Renewable Energy Share in Denmark has increased dramatically, rising from 3% of all power in 1990 to 25% in 2004. In addition, Denmark's energy intensity is 35% below the IEA average due to improved energy efficiency.

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Metro Health Hospital in Grand Rapids will receive \$400,000 from the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality to support a comprehensive storm water management program at its new hospital. The grant will help fund the installation of a 47,000 sq.ft. green roof, the second largest in the state and the first of its kind for a health care facility. The grant will also fund the purchase and installation of “bioswales” and rain gardens in several parking lots, and monitoring systems. Metro Health Hospital also will undertake a study, with assistance from Sustainable Research Group consultants, to collect comparative data on the benefits of its new roof to more traditional types of roofing materials. Metro Health Hospital is seeking LEED certification for its new hospital, which will make it the first hospital in Michigan – and one of only a handful in the country – to be so recognized. The hospital is also requiring that all occupants of the adjacent 170-acre Metro Health Village be LEED certified.

Editors of Sustainable Industries Journal have selected the Top Green Building Products of 2006. The top ten products include innovative advances in lighting, coatings, plywood, paint, concrete and alternative energy. The top ten product winners include Nanogel (innovative insulation produced by Cabot Corp used in skylights by Wasco Products), Sphelar (spherical micro solar cell from Kyosemi Corp), UpperCut Dual-Flush Flushometer (dual-flush toilet from Sloan Valve Co., and Geothermal Heating System from WaterFurnace.

Investigation into the Interconnection of independent power projects with electric utilities was begun by the MPSC. The MPSC adopted interconnection rules on Sept. 11, 2003, and it approved interconnection procedures for 17 electric utilities on Aug. 10, 2004. Despite these interconnection standards and procedures, problems have arisen in the case of the Elkton-Pigeon-Bay Port Laker School District project. The MPSC on June 30, 2005 awarded the school district a \$265,000 grant from the Low-Income and Energy Efficiency Fund for the installation and grid-tying of wind turbines and a solar panel on its property. The MPSC has directed Detroit Edison to file a report on the interconnection process as it applied to the school district project by Nov. 14. In addition, the MPSC is directing 18 electric utilities to file, by Nov. 28, a listing of all interconnections completed as well as any pending interconnection applications. Any interested person may file information by Dec. 19 detailing any interconnection problems experienced and any suggestions for changes to the interconnection procedures. Email comments to mpscefilecases@michigan.gov or mail comments to the Executive Secretary, MPSC, P.O. Box 30221, Lansing, MI 48909. All comments should reference Case No. U-15113 and must be received no later than 5 p.m. on Dec. 19. The MPSC staff will analyze the filing and will on Jan. 9, 2007 convene a public meeting at the MPSC offices in Lansing to discuss the issues raised and determine if any consensus can be reached. The MPSC staff has been directed to file a report by Jan. 31, 2007 summarizing the issues identified and making recommendations for future action. Energy Efficient Home Seminar will be held on Saturday, November 4, 9 am – Noon at Pierce Cedar Creek Institute in Hastings. For more information or directions, please visit www.cedarcreekinstitute.org

Dr. Shirley Fleischman of GVSU School of Engineering partnered with Heartland Builders, Bauer Power, Nu-Wool Insulation, and many others to build a super energy efficient home for a low income family. Green House on Watson used insulated concrete form walls, Energy Star products, a solar DHW system, and a 2 kW photovoltaic system. <http://engineer.gvsu.edu/house/>

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EPA Administrator Stephen L. Johnson announced the agency has signed a contract to purchase more than 100 million kWh's in renewable energy certificates. The deal will make EPA the first federal agency to purchase renewable energy, or "green power," equivalent to 100 percent of its annual electricity needs.

Interested in Workshops? Check our Calendar of Events at www.michigan.gov/energyoffice

Green House: New Directions in Sustainable Architecture and Design will be held at the National Building Museum in Wash., D.C. from May 20, 2006-June 3, 2007. The show features 22 contemporary residences and includes panels and hands-on displays to educate visitors about wise land use, solar aspect and solar electricity, energy efficiency, indoor air quality, and sustainable building materials. Following the year-long run in Washington, DC, the show is expected to travel for two years to major museums across the United States.

Ethanol (E85) & Biodiesel (B20) incentives to install or convert fueling equipment are available to service station owners throughout Michigan. Governor Granholm has established a goal of having 1000 biofuel pumps in Michigan by the end of 2008. The cash incentives range up to \$3,000 per station for converting equipment and up to \$4,000 for installing new equipment for biodiesel and up to \$12,000 for new equipment for E85. Projects must be completed and providing biofuel to the public by August 31, 2007 and station owners must agree to provide the E85 or B20 for at least 3 years after receiving the incentive. A total of \$200,000 is available and applications must be received by December 15. For more information or to apply for the incentives, station owners can contact NextEnergy Center (Dan Radomski at 313-833-0100 or danr@nextenergy.org) or Clean Energy Coalition (Sean Reed at 734-717-1455 or reed@cec-mi.org).



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